



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Cat Brooks

Age: 42

Family: Husband and Daughter (13)

Hometown: Las Vegas

Lived in Oakland since: 2006

Education: Bachelors, University Nevada Las Vegas

Occupation: Executive Director, Radio Host, Playwright & Actress

Employer: The Justice Teams Network, KPFA

Political experience: Lifelong community advocate and activist

Notable affiliations: Justice Teams Network, Oakland Justice Coalition, 3 Girls Theater Company, Lower Bottom Playaz, Youth Together

1. What do you see as the greatest challenges when it comes to providing residents with a livable, affordable and safe community?

After having countless conversations with the People of Oakland, I have heard many Oakland residents express the same concerns. Working with the community and community stakeholders, we have turned those concerns into five primary platform objectives:

HOUSING AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

The UN's Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing described the homelessness crisis in our city as "systemic cruelty". We have a moral obligation to immediately provide safe, dignified shelter for ALL. This means innovative solutions like utilizing city owned buildings, abandoned schools and tiny homes on public land while we work to build **truly affordable housing** for our working and middle class families.

REAL SOLUTIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

If numerous studies showcase the critical importance of Early Childhood Development Programs to create safer communities and put our children on a pathway toward lifetime success, why do we spend more money on overtime pay for police than on Early Childhood Development? To improve public safety, we must conduct an immediate audit of OPD, stop the egregious overtime abuses, and re-prioritize public safety solutions towards true crime prevention measures such as early childhood development, mental health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and housing and job training centers.

IMPROVE EDUCATION

For Oakland to thrive, we must prioritize our children. This means we must improve services for families, ensure adequate nutrition, provide quality, afterschool programs, job training opportunities, and partner with our schools and teachers to ensure they have the resources, including affordable housing, that they need to help our children succeed right now.

BUILD AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

Oaklanders need good paying jobs close to home. This means recruiting progressive companies that hire locally and pay a living wage. We need to grow our local economy by creating a Public Bank that will help us invest in Oakland. This means more resources for job training programs, capital for local, small businesses and recruiting progressive companies that pay living wages to our City.

CREATE ONE, UNITED OAKLAND

Oakland is currently a Tale of Two Cities which has only worsened under the current leadership. We need to bring Oakland together through community-rooted and community-accountable solutions across race, class, gender and creed to create one Oakland that is safe, prosperous, clean and works for us all.

2. What is the biggest opportunity for your district or city during the next four years?

With investors and developers seeking to exert undue influence on our city, it is up to city government to ensure that the path forward serves all of the people of Oakland, not solely those with means. Our failures are most clearly evidenced by the current housing crisis - with thousands on the streets and tens of thousands more displaced, Oakland is failing to look after its own.

Democracy is seriously under attack. Oakland has the opportunity to be a model for the country about what a progressive government really looks like. With the dysfunction at the federal level, the most important place we can fight is locally. I know from my travels that the rest of the country looks to Oakland for how to resist. Building a city that is inclusive, just and humane with 21st century common sense solutions to public safety, educational equity, gentrification and housing provides an opportunity to be a model for the nation on how to unite a community through a shared sense of values, humanity and dignity.

3. Describe your commitment to your district or city leading up to your bid for office.

I am the Executive Director of the Justice Teams Network, a statewide network of organizations working to change the way in which law enforcement engages communities through advocacy, organizing, communications, and policy, former co-host of KPFA Radio's "Upfront," former Executive Director for the San Francisco National Lawyers Guild, Former Executive Director of Youth Together, a mother, a wife, an organizer, and a proud resident of Oakland, California who has dedicated the last two decades of my life to working on a myriad of social justice issues including land use, education, renters rights, living wages for all and police violence.

The voice and needs of the people is at the center of my work. Until I stepped down to run for mayor, I leveraged my role as co-host of KPFA's morning news show "UpFront" to bring the work of justice and equity into a public forum that not only served to educate the public, but also to activate them in moments of engagement and resistance.

My track record in Oakland is one of moving in partnership with all residents to make Oakland a city where everyone can thrive, not just a chosen few. While Oakland is at a crossroads with our issues of homelessness, deteriorating infrastructure, and growing inequity, I am working in deep partnership with community to design clear and rational solutions to address these growing problems.

4. Silicon Valley and the Bay Area are at the center of global, technological advancement. How do you see technology's role in changing the lives of both longtime residents and transplants?

Technology can have both positive and negative impacts on our community. It can bring wonderful new innovations and also has the potential to create divides between community members. My administration would focus on amplifying the positive benefits of technology in

Oakland. Here are some examples of ways we believe that technology can improve our daily lives:

- Creating high speed, municipal broadband that meets net neutrality standards and ensures all Oaklanders have access
- Increasing participation in our city government by making it possible for community members to engage remotely
- Improving access to healthcare and the quality received
- Improving the way in which we develop the city in order to safeguard our environment
- Improving public transit and reducing reliance on personal vehicles
- Improving infrastructure
- Ensuring that Oaklanders are trained in the latest technology
- Working in partnership with the tech industry to create pathways toward living wage jobs for our community members